

## Claims

1. A method of pretreating a sample for immunologically assaying the total amount of adiponectin present in the sample, which comprises adding, to an adiponectin-containing sample, at least one of a reducing agent, an acid or a salt thereof, a surfactant, and a protease, and allowing the same to react with the sample without boiling together with the sample.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the immunological assay is performed by making use of an insoluble carrier on which an anti-adiponectin antibody is put.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the protease is a microorganism-derived protease or a protease obtained through gene recombination technology.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of microorganisms which belong to the genus *Bacillus*, genus *Streptomyces*, or genus *Aspergillus*.

5. An agent for pretreating a sample for immunologically assaying the total amount of adiponectin present in the sample, wherein the agent contains at least one of a reducing agent, an acid or a salt thereof, a surfactant, and a protease; and, in use, the pretreatment agent is allowed to react with the sample without undergoing boiling together with the sample.

6. The agent according to claim 5, wherein the

immunological assay is performed by making use of an insoluble carrier on which an anti-adiponectin antibody is put.

7. The agent according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the protease is a microorganism-derived protease or a protease obtained through gene recombination technology.

8. The agent according to claim 7, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of microorganisms which belong to the genus *Bacillus*, genus *Streptomyces*, or genus *Aspergillus*.

9. A method for measuring the total amount of adiponectin present in a sample, comprising adding, to an adiponectin-containing sample, at least one of a reducing agent, an acid or a salt thereof, a surfactant, and a protease, allowing the same to react with the sample without boiling together with the sample, and performing an immunological assay of adiponectin.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the immunological assay is performed by making use of an insoluble carrier on which an anti-adiponectin antibody is put.

11. The method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the protease is a microorganism-derived protease or a protease obtained through gene recombination technology.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of microorganisms which belong to the genus *Bacillus*, genus

Streptomyces, or genus Aspergillus.

13. An immunoassay reagent for immunologically assaying the total amount of adiponectin present in a sample, wherein the reagent includes a first reagent and a second reagent, the first reagent contains at least one of a reducing agent, an acid or a salt thereof, a surfactant and a protease, the second reagent contains an insoluble carrier with an antibody for determining a level of adiponectin, and the reaction between the sample and the first reagent is carried out without boiling of the reaction system.